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General and complete disarmament

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 2 December 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/51, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control". Paragraph 4 of the resolution invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 24 February 2009, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Czech Republic

[Original: English]
[4 June 2009]

The Czech Republic supports and promotes objectives envisaged in the General Assembly Resolution 63/51 Observance of Environmental Norms in the Drafting and Implementation of Agreements on Disarmament and Arms Control.

Arms Control and Disarmament implementation process is being strictly conducted according to the provisions of the relevant Treaties and Agreements and according to the provisions of Act legislative norms of the European Union and the Czech Republic dedicated to the protection of the environment.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[17 April 2009]

El Salvador has special provisions on the protection, conservation and development of natural resources and the environment in the Environment Act, adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 2 March 1998.

By Executive Decree No. 17 of 21 March 2000, El Salvador also issued the General Regulations on the Environment, developing the Environment Act and facilitating its application and giving effect to international environmental norms established in disarmament and arms limitation agreements and commitments.

El Salvador's Armed Forces have no nuclear weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction. Furthermore, they are following and complying with the criteria for the observance of environmental standards established by the relevant United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament and arms limitation.

The national plan for modernizing and equipping the Armed Forces does not envisage the acquisition of nuclear weapons or any other type of weapons of mass destruction.

The Government of El Salvador will remain dedicated to the international commitments to observe environmental norms in the preparation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[2 June 2009]

The Ministry of Defence states that Lebanon does not have any arms that affect the environment. Lebanon supports all treaties and conventions related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and respect of environmental standards. Lebanon reiterates its concern over Israel's possession of an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), as well as nuclear power.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[4 June 2009]

1. Mexico is aware of the serious impact that weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological — and other arms, including conventional weapons and their remnants, have on the environment and on international efforts to combat climate change worldwide.

2. Mexico is convinced that disarmament and arms limitation agreements must be prepared and implemented in a way that is compatible with international cooperation in the prevention, control and elimination of possible effects prejudicial to the environment, particularly at the stage where armaments are being stockpiled or destroyed. Consequently, our nation has worked together with international bodies to create and implement multilateral instruments on disarmament and environmental protection.

3. Mexico is concerned that broad areas of land formerly dedicated to farming or livestock-raising, as well as inland and coastal bodies of water and ecosystems in general, are being threatened by pollution from the indiscriminate use of various types of weapons, and by the lack of effective national regulations enabling weapons to be destroyed with the least possible impact on the environment.

4. Mexico does not produce weapons of mass destruction, use or stockpile them, or allow their transit through its territory. In that connection, Congress recently adopted federal legislation to control chemical substances capable of being diverted to the fabrication of chemical weapons, which is intended to reduce unforeseen environmental consequences and to harmonize Mexican law with international legislation in the field.

5. Mexico keeps strict control over the war materiel in the hands of its Armed Forces and has put in place mechanical means of destroying conventional weapons and munitions, while at the same time keeping records of any materiel that has been destroyed.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[2 June 2009]

Spanish society is very sensitive to the possible environmental impact of any industrial activity and this is also an important consideration in the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements. In Spain, the environmental norms of the European Union, which have been incorporated into Spanish law and are consequently binding, serve as the benchmark for environmental management.

Below is a description of the procedures Spain follows for the destruction of weapons or ammunition in implementation of the main disarmament and arms limitation agreements to which it is a party.

Destruction of anti-personnel mines: *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Anti-personnel Mine-Ban Treaty)*

The 1997 Anti-personnel Mine-Ban Treaty mandated the destruction of national stockpiles not later than four and one-half years after the deposit of the instrument of ratification.

By adopting Act No. 33/1998 of 5 October on the total prohibition of anti-personnel mines and weapons with similar effects (Official Gazette No. 239 of 6 October 1998), Spain undertook to destroy its arsenal of anti-personnel mines before 7 October 2001. However, the process of destruction was completed 10 months earlier, on 3 October 2000, over two years in advance of the time limit established by article 4 of the Convention.

The destruction of the anti-personnel mines was done by the Spanish company Fabricaciones Extremeñas (FAEX), which guaranteed maximum security and no environmental impact whatsoever, in keeping with the ISO 14000 standard and Council Directive 94/67/EC on the incineration of hazardous waste.

In all, 849,365 mines were destroyed in a record period of 28 months, at the rate of 1,200 a day. The total cost of the operation was €3,228,000, and thus the unit cost amounted only to €3.8. The process began with the dismantling of the mines, and the separation of the explosive charge from the casing and the rest of the components. The explosive was then incinerated in a 450-degree furnace. The resulting gases were next passed through a treatment line in which the heavy metals were separated out and later collected by waste management companies. The end gases were subjected to catalytic oxidation that converted carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide, rendering them harmless to the environment. As evidence of the destruction, the membrane of each mine with the identification number and date of destruction was retained.

Destruction of conventional weapons: *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty)*

The CFE Treaty, which entered into force in 1992, imposed limits on stockpiles in five categories of conventional weapons, requiring reductions. In the case of Spain, this meant disposing of 371 battle tanks and 87 artillery pieces, a process it completed on 16 November 1995.

Since that date, the reductions have continued in order to offset the new materiel being put into service and ensure that the limits laid down in the five categories of weapons are not exceeded. Furthermore, Spain has embarked on a reduction of its stockpiles that goes beyond the obligations imposed by the Treaty.

Article VIII of the Treaty establishes the reduction options in each of the categories of armaments covered: they can be reduced by conversion for non-military purposes, placement on static display, used for ground instructional purposes or used as ground targets, but the most frequent method is destruction.

The destruction procedures are regulated by the Protocol on Procedures Governing the Reduction of Conventional Armaments and Equipment Limited by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which establishes the various ways in which a weapon must be manipulated to be deemed unusable. The Protocol does not, however, impose any environmental regulation; on the contrary, it states that "each State Party shall have the right to use any technological means it deems appropriate".

In the case of Spain, reduction has been contracted out to private firms which, from an environmental standpoint, are subject to the general laws of the State and the specific laws of the autonomous communities in which the reduction takes place.

The process is as follows:

- As a preliminary step, usable components not subject to compulsory reduction under the Treaty are removed from the weapon along with any remaining munitions. This step is carried out by the military units themselves;
- Next, responsibility is turned over to the reduction firm, which must first remove any remaining contaminants, namely, combustible liquids or gases, lubricants or coolants; electric batteries and lighting fixtures; and soot to be cleaned out of closed cycles (with decanting of the waste water). All such contaminants are channelled into the national system for the collection of hazardous substances, whose regulations meet the general criteria established within the European Union context;
- Lastly, the metallic parts are rendered unusable by one of the following procedures: severing, deformation or smashing. Spain has rejected the explosive demolition method, precisely because of the cost to the environment. The metal remnants are used as scrap by the private firms involved, which keep them in partial payment for their services and send them to blast furnaces to be melted down.

Destruction of small arms and light weapons: *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*

Section IV(C)2 of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons provides that "destruction will generally be used to dispose of illicitly trafficked weapons seized by national authorities, once the legal due process is complete".

The above criterion has been extended to apply to arms seized by Spanish troops participating in peace operations. Whenever the number of weapons apprehended is small — and that is more often the case as the crisis situation eases — and it is a problem to store them and not necessarily possible to guarantee proper security, they are rapidly destroyed in accordance with Spain's Arms

Regulations. In the case of pistols or rifles, holes are drilled into the barrel and the essential components of the receiver. Where grenade-launchers or flame-throwers are involved, smashing is used if access to a plant equipped with a hydraulic press is available; otherwise they are cut up with a blow torch. The destroyed elements are listed under the supervision of the chief of the unit and a report on them is submitted to the management of the international organization heading the mission. In addition, ceremonies marking the destruction of the seized arms have on occasion been held in the presence of witnesses and local media.

Furthermore, section IV(C)1 of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons provides that "any small arms identified as surplus to a national requirement should, by preference, be destroyed". In this case, because there is usually a large number of weapons, they are suitably stored. Armament-reduction programmes are then established and, once funded, they are taken over by manufacturing installations managed by the logistic services of the Ministry of Defence or contracted out to private firms listed by the Ministry. The technique ordinarily used is smashing and/or severing with mechanical or hydraulic shears, these being considered the least contaminating methods. Alternatively, exceptionally rigid components are severed using an oxyacetylene torch. In all cases, it is ensured that the weapon and all essential and auxiliary components are rendered unusable. The armament is stricken from the inventory by means of a certificate of destruction drawn up by the board of officers designated for that purpose. Once the weapon has been destroyed, the metallic parts are separated from the rest: wood, plastics, Bakelite, glass, etc. When the various components have been separated, the metal scrap is sent to foundries, while the other residues are taken over by the national waste treatment system.

Destruction of fragmentation weapons: *Convention on Cluster Munitions*

The Convention on Cluster Munitions, signed at Oslo on 3 December 2008, calls for the destruction of national stockpiles of cluster munitions within eight years of its entry into force for each State party. In the case of Spain, the Convention has already been adopted by Parliament and the instrument of ratification will shortly be deposited. However, Spain has already destroyed all such munitions supplied to its Armed Forces, with the exception of those retained for development and training, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

The destruction of all the types of cluster munitions in the hands of the Spanish Armed Forces was done by the Spanish company Fabricaciones Extremeñas (FAEX), which guaranteed maximum security and zero environmental impact, in accordance with the ISO 14001:2004 standard and the Council Directive 94/67/EC for the incineration of hazardous waste.

Between December 2008 and March 2009, a total of 1,950 ESPIN-21 mortar grenades and 1,825 MAT-120 mortar bombs were destroyed, as well as 537 CBU-100, 38 CBU-99B and 385 BME-330B/AP aircraft-launched bombs. The total cost of the operation amounted to €4,911,357.45, with the unit cost, depending on the type of weapon, ranging from €500 for the simplest to €6,000 for the BME-330B/AP bombs.

The industrial process that was followed began with the dismantling of the bombs and the separation of the various components. Inert components (ferric and non-ferric metals, plastics and textiles) were taken out and recycled by the national waste treatment system. Active components were incinerated in an adiabatic

furnace, and the resulting gases were passed through a treatment line in which the heavy metals were separated out for later collection by waste management companies. The end gases were subjected to catalytic oxidation that converted carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide, innocuous to the environment. As evidence of the destruction, a characteristic cluster bomb component was retained, depending on the type of bomb, such as the parachute or the tail cone assembly.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: Arabic]
[29 May 2009]

Introduction

General Assembly resolutions 63/50 and 63/51 address the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control and the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and invite Member States to communicate information on measures they have adopted in these areas.

Measures adopted by the United Arab Emirates to implement the two resolutions

1. Accession to international agreements and treaties:

(a) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Protocol thereto;

(c) In 2003, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the United Arab Emirates concluded a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(d) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material;

(e) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;

(f) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(g) The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

2. Enactment of legislation on monitoring radioactive materials and limiting environmental damage caused by them:

(a) Federal Law No. 1 of 2002 on the regulation and monitoring of radioactive sources and protection against their dangers, as amended by Federal Law No. 20 of 2006;

(b) Federal Law No. 55 of 2004 on basic regulatory guidelines for handling ionizing radiation in the United Arab Emirates;

(c) Federal Law No. 56 on regulatory guidelines for the secure transport of radioactive material in the United Arab Emirates;

(d) Federal Law No. 57 of 2004 on regulatory laws for managing radioactive waste in the United Arab Emirates.

3. The United Arab Emirates has taken part in international conferences, forums and workshops on disarmament and non-proliferation, and held forums on issues related to arms limitation and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Conclusion

The United Arab Emirates believes in the settlement of differences among nations through peaceful means and follows the principles of dialogue and negotiation to resolve conflicts between States. The United Arab Emirates calls for the resolution of its dispute with Iran over the return of its occupied islands Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb on the basis of dialogue and reason through international mediation or the International Court of Justice, in keeping with its commitment to the application of the principles of international law in such matters. The United Arab Emirates calls for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of all weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical and nuclear).

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Sixty-fourth session
Item 100 of the preliminary list*
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/64/50.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/86, commended the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, encouraged them to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region, and recognized the role of the United Nations in promoting regional and international peace and security.

2. The General Assembly also recognized that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures in the Mediterranean area would contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums.

3. The General Assembly called upon all States of the Mediterranean region that had not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region. The Assembly encouraged all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

4. The General Assembly also encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and in combating international crime and illicit arms transfers and illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society.

5. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

6. In this connection, a note verbale dated 23 February 2009 was sent to all Member States requesting their views on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[15 May 2009]

1. At its sixty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 63/86, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

2. The following is in response to the request of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for the view of the Permanent Mission's Government on the issues covered by the resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

3. The Netherlands, like other European Union member States, believes that European security is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. The Netherlands therefore endorses the continuation of the political and security dialogue with the region, in order to create a common area of peace and stability underpinned by sustainable development, rule of law, democracy and human rights.

4. The Netherlands considers the Union for the Mediterranean key in this process and an important instrument to enhance economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation with the Mediterranean countries. The Netherlands supports the aim of the Union to intensify the process of dialogue and consultation through tangible, regional and trans-regional projects.

5. Security and stability in the Mediterranean region also contributes to the alleviation of tensions beyond the region. Together with the European Union, the Netherlands calls on all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so, to accede to all multilaterally negotiated, legally binding instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation, in order to strengthen peace and security.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2009]

1. Panama supports any bilateral or multilateral initiative which could better guarantee against threats to international peace and security and therefore help to strengthen peace and cooperation in the region.

2. Accordingly, Panama considers it important to foster the conditions necessary to strengthen measures to build confidence between States.

3. Panama encourages the countries of the Mediterranean to continue cooperating to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, international crime, illicit trafficking in arms and the production, consumption and smuggling of drugs, all of which harm the public's quality of life and seriously threaten peace and stability in the region. To that end, attention should be paid to compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and with multilateral agreements on various subjects.

4. Panama firmly believes that taking these steps, proposed by the United Nations, will build confidence and decrease perceptions of threat in the region. Consequently, there would be grounds to expect not only better communication between countries traditionally seen as opponents, but also significant progress in areas underlying the conflict itself.

Poland

[Original: English]
[12 June 2009]

1. Poland, as an active European Union (EU) member, jointly shapes its foreign policy towards the Mediterranean region. Bilateral EU relations with countries of the region are being carried out within the European Neighbourhood Policy framework. Implementation of Policy actions (as identified in the EU plans of action of the Policy) has a positive impact on the comprehensive reforms in those countries, which consequently strengthens security and stability in the region. EU studies show that, regardless of the current financial crisis and the Gaza conflict, this positive tendency is growing. Poland has been active in establishing guidelines for strengthening EU relations with two of the most advanced countries in that sphere: Morocco and Israel.

2. In addition to bilateral ties, Poland also supports the multilateral cooperation within the Union for the Mediterranean Initiative framework, which is a new and ambitious continuation of the Barcelona Process. This new initiative strengthens institutional ties with the countries of the region and increases regional security especially in the fields of maritime security, energy supplies and migration security. Current regional developments and the fact that the activities within the Union for the Mediterranean were suspended in January 2009 confirm, yet again, that until the Arab-Israeli conflict and tensions between the Turkish and Cypriot populations are resolved, the Initiative will not be able to develop properly.

3. The European Union, as a member of the Quartet, has played a leading role in international efforts aimed at securing peace in the Middle East. Moreover, EU has been cooperating with the Palestinian Authority and Israel, as well as with the League of Arab States and other partners in the region. Poland played an active role in shaping the EU Council conclusions that consistently call on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to take all necessary means that will lead to the creation of an independent, democratic and sustainable Palestinian State, which would exist side by side with Israel in peace and security.

4. In 2008, Poland contributed to the stabilization of the Middle East by participating in United Nations missions in Lebanon (the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) and in the Golan Heights (the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force).

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[29 April 2009]

Resolution 63/86: Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

1. Ukraine is involved in Operation Active Endeavour, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) counter-terrorism effort in the Mediterranean, having signed an agreement to that effect in the form of an exchange of letters. The agreement was concluded on 21 April 2005 at a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the level of ministers for foreign affairs, held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The agreement was brought into force by decree No. 71/2006 of the President of Ukraine, of 26 January 2006.

2. The Operation seeks to counter terrorism by preventing the illegal shipment by sea of weapons and ammunition and by preventing the use of civilian vessels for unlawful transportation of persons or for other unlawful activity.

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Sixty-fourth session
Item 104 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/197, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It also provides an overview of the world drug situation. This report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs entitled "Outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session" (A/64/92–E/2009/98).

* A/64/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/197, the General Assembly recognized that despite continued and increased efforts by the international community, the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health, the safety and well-being of humanity, in particular young people, and the national security and sovereignty of States, and that it undermines socio-economic and political stability and sustainable development. The resolution welcomed the decision by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to convene a high-level segment, during its fifty-second session, in order to evaluate progress made since 1998 towards meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the Assembly; identify future priorities and areas requiring further action, as well as goals and targets to be set in countering the world drug problem beyond 2009; and adopt a political declaration and other measures to enhance international cooperation. It encouraged the Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to continue their work on international drug control and urged all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to enable UNODC to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities, within its mandates.

2. The present report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Commission entitled "Outcome of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session".[1]

3. The present report provides an overview of the world drug situation and on the status of implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the United Nations system, in particular UNODC, in areas such as research to increase knowledge and understanding of drug issues in order to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions and the promotion of regional initiatives and field-based technical cooperation projects in various parts of the world and various areas of drug control.

Overview of the world drug situation

4. In 2008 there were reductions in the production of cocaine and heroin.[2] Annual crop surveys conducted by UNODC showed a reduction of 19 per cent in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and of 18 per cent in coca cultivation in Colombia. Trends in other regions were mixed, but not so much as to offset the declines in these two major production areas. Surveys of users in the world's biggest markets for cannabis, cocaine and opiates suggested that those markets were shrinking. In contrast, there were several indications that the global amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) problem was worsening. Global seizures were increasing, and amphetamine-type stimulants were being manufactured in a growing number of countries, with diversifying locations and manufacture techniques.

[1] A/64/92–E/2009/98.

[2] *World Drug Report 2009*.

5. The total area under opium poppy cultivation decreased by 16 per cent, to 189,000 hectares in 2008, owing mainly to the decrease in Afghanistan. The level of cultivation in Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic was approximately the same as in 2007. Despite small increases in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (6 per cent) and Peru (4 per cent), the total area under coca cultivation decreased by 8 per cent in 2008, owing to the decrease in Colombia (18 per cent). The total area under coca cultivation fell to 167,600 hectares, close to the average level between 2002 and 2008, and well below the levels reached in the 1990s.

6. The total estimated area for outdoor production of cannabis in 2008 ranged from 200,000 to 642,000 hectares. The total cannabis herb production was estimated to range from 13,300 to 66,100 metric tons, and for cannabis resin from 2,200 to 9,900 metric tons.

7. In 2007, UNODC estimated that between 230 and 640 metric tons of amphetamine-group ATS and between 72 and 137 metric tons of ecstasy-group ATS were manufactured, and shifts were registered in the location of production – often from developed to developing countries.

8. As regards global trends in drug consumption, UNODC estimated that in 2007 between 172 and 250 million persons had used illicit drugs at least once in the past year, including casual consumers and heavy or "problematic" drug users. Estimates made by UNODC suggest that there were between 18 and 38 million problem drug users in 2007.

9. More than half of the world's opiate-using population is thought to live in Asia. The highest levels of use are found along the main drug-trafficking routes close to Afghanistan. Opiates remain the world's main problem drug in terms of treatment. Europe has the largest opiate market in economic terms, and although use appears to be stable in many Western European countries, increases have been reported in Eastern Europe.

10. The largest market for cocaine remains North America, followed by West and Central Europe and South America. Significant declines in cocaine use were reported in the United States of America. Following strong increases in recent years, a number of surveys in Western European countries showed the first signs of stabilization, whereas cocaine use still appears to be increasing in South America and some African countries.

11. The highest levels of cannabis use remain in the established markets of North America and Western Europe, although there are signs that the levels of use are declining in developed countries, particularly among young people. UNODC estimated that between 16 and 51 million people used amphetamine-group substances at least once in 2007. Injecting drug use was responsible for an increasing rate of HIV infection in many parts of the world, including countries in Eastern Europe, South America and East and South-East Asia.

II. International cooperation against the world drug problem

12. In 2007, at its fiftieth session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs decided to convene a high-level segment during its fifty-second session, in 2009, on the

follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, on the world drug problem, held in 1998.

13. On 12 March 2009, ministers and other representatives of Member States participating in that high-level segment adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

14. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action identifies future priorities and areas requiring further action, as well as goals and targets in countering the world drug problem beyond 2009. In particular, the Political Declaration and Plan of Action recognized that: (a) the three international drug control conventions continue to provide the international legal framework for drug control and international cooperation; (b) the approach of the international community to the drug problem beyond 2009 should continue to be based on the principle of shared responsibility; (c) supply and demand reduction strategies should be mutually reinforcing elements of comprehensive strategies and actions and should take into account socio-economic aspects, health and education, as well as respect for human rights; and (d) Member States should strengthen their efforts to reduce the health and social consequences of drug abuse.

15. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/197, the outcome of the high-level segment of the Commission, including the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the outcome of the four high-level round tables, are being transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the Assembly.[1] In that resolution, the Assembly decided to consider the results of the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission at a plenary meeting at its sixty-fourth session, in 2009. The meeting should constitute an opportunity for Member States to reaffirm the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

16. At its fifty-second session the Commission also adopted resolution 52/12, entitled "Improving the collection, reporting and analysis of data to monitor the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem", which concerns the development of the main instrument to measure and evaluate the results of action by the international community in this field.

17. At the fifty-second session of the Commission, all speakers welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the high-level segment, which set new commitments in all areas of drug control.

18. Several speakers indicated that, despite the efforts undertaken since 1998 to achieve significant results in this field, considerable difficulties still remained, particularly as regards new trends in the illicit use of drugs. They emphasized the importance of drug demand reduction and reported on drug abuse prevention and treatment activities in their countries. In many countries, drug dependence was considered a chronic health disorder and not a form of criminal behaviour. Representatives stressed the need to ensure that in treating users of illicit drugs the human rights of every individual were respected. Speakers also underlined the relationship between illicit drug use and social exclusion.

19. Several speakers defined "harm reduction" as interventions to reduce the health and social consequences of drug abuse and expressed the view that they

should be integrated into drug demand reduction initiatives for preventing the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases among drug abusers, as well as preventing drug-related deaths and other consequences of drug abuse. Other representatives reported on negative experiences with such interventions and noted that they were not included in drug demand reduction strategies in their countries.

20. Several speakers emphasized that efforts to reduce the supply of illicit drugs should be pursued with due respect for human rights and the rule of law. With regard to bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking, special mention was made of the importance of increased judicial cooperation, mutual legal assistance, the extradition of drug traffickers, the sharing of information, controlled delivery and the provision of technical training and assistance.

21. The continued cultivation of opium poppy and production of opium in Afghanistan required a coordinated, international, long-term response in line with the principles of shared responsibility and proportionality. Attention was drawn to the importance of regional initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Paris Pact initiative and its Rainbow Strategy and the Triangular Initiative of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. The Commission adopted resolution 52/2, entitled "Strengthening the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States neighbouring Afghanistan, based on the principle of shared responsibility".

22. Several speakers expressed concern about the alarming increase in trafficking of cocaine through West Africa and of heroin through East Africa. The Commission adopted resolution 52/4, entitled "Progress made towards strengthening international support for States in West Africa in their efforts to combat drug trafficking", and resolution 52/3, entitled "International support to States in East Africa in their efforts to combat drug trafficking", both of which invite Member States and relevant international organizations to intensify their efforts in support of those African States most affected by this problem.

23. Speakers expressed concern at the resurgence of trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and reiterated their Governments' commitment to reduce the supply of those substances. Emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining close monitoring and control over the manufacture and sale of precursors in order to detect diversions.

24. Several speakers noted that links existed between drug trafficking and organized crime, money-laundering and corruption, and that such links should be addressed within the broad international legal framework.

25. Several speakers highlighted the importance of alternative development programmes for reducing the supply of illicit drugs, observing that such programmes needed to be complemented by law enforcement efforts in order to be successful. The need to ensure long-term financial and political support and commitment to alternative development programmes was also stressed. The Commission adopted resolution 52/6, entitled "Promoting best practices and lessons learned for the sustainability and integrality of alternative development programmes". For a more detailed account of the action taken by the international

community and the deliberations, see the report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.[3]

III. Action by the United Nations system

26. Through its drug programme, UNODC aims to make the world safer from drugs by supporting the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies and by supporting Member States through technical assistance, legal advice and research. UNODC is strategically placed to identify those areas in the world where its involvement can make the greatest contribution by strengthening regional capacity or mobilizing the support of the international community to match recipients' needs. The operations of UNODC are goal-oriented and seek solutions to challenging new trends and emerging problems. UNODC assists States in fulfilling their drug control commitments and supports their efforts to meet the standards they have set for themselves. For a detailed account of the activities of UNODC, see the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.[4]

A. Health dimension

1. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences

27. UNODC supports and promotes evidence-based prevention programmes. Together with Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNODC targets young people through schools to provide them with necessary information to develop their resistance and personal and social skills and to make healthy and pro-social choices.

28. Families with young children and adolescents are supported with cost-effective family skills training programmes for parents and children to improve family bonding, parental monitoring and supervision, and communication of positive family values. UNODC has published the *Guide to Implementing Family Skills Training Programmes for Drug Abuse Prevention*[5] to help governments, policymakers, research institutions and NGOs to choose the most suitable evidence-based family skills training programme for their use.

29. UNODC has been successfully implementing a workplace prevention model to assist both public and private companies in developing and implementing programmes leading to a decrease in drug use and substantial gains for companies and workers in terms of reduced tardiness, absenteeism and accidents and increased productivity.

30. UNODC works with governments, policymakers, professionals and media to counteract stigma and discrimination against drug users, drug-dependent individuals and people living with HIV, while actively promoting evidence-based treatment

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28-E/CN.7/2009/12).

[4] E/CN.7/2009/3-E/CN.15/2009/3.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.8.

facilities and supporting human rights and humanitarian procedures in the context of treatment for drug dependence.

31. UNODC has been disseminating good practices and evidence-based methodologies to enhance professional qualifications and to promote the development of new professionals in the delivery of services for drug users.

32. UNODC promotes a comprehensive approach and provides technical assistance to support governments and NGOs in scaling up treatment services and building a rehabilitation-oriented continuum of care, from outreach activities to a wide variety of clinical programmes. Comprehensive approaches need to include due attention to social and economic issues such as unemployment and poverty that contribute to the circumstances that render members of socially marginalized groups vulnerable to becoming drug users and victims or perpetrators of crime.

2. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

33. UNODC has been supporting governments and civil society in developing or adapting legislation, policies and strategies for equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services among drug users, particularly injecting drug users. To this end, the Office has been implementing various activities, such as supporting legal and policy reviews as they relate to drug use and HIV, and providing training and other technical support to parliamentarians, judges and law enforcement officials on the human rights of drug users. UNODC has also been providing direct technical assistance and building the capacity of countries, including civil society, to scale up evidence-informed comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services.

34. The World Health Organization (WHO), UNODC, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) *Technical Guide for Countries to set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*[6] encompasses a comprehensive package of interventions for injecting drug users. That document has also been designed to contribute to the availability of harmonized data at the country level in relation to all essential elements of HIV prevention and treatment among injecting drug users.

35. To help countries to move towards universal access, UNODC also contributed to the development of policy and operational guidelines and helped countries in the implementation of (a) collaborative tuberculosis and HIV services for drug users, (b) opioid substitution therapy programmes for injecting and other drug users and (c) antiretroviral treatment services for HIV-positive injecting drug users.

3. Inter-agency cooperation

36. The UNODC-WHO Joint Programme on drug dependence treatment and care (2009-2013)[7] involves governments, clinical centres for drug-dependence treatment, hospitals for infectious diseases, universities, municipalities and civil society organizations. The Joint Programme advocates for evidence-based and human rights-based drug-dependence treatment services and provides technical assistance

[6] WHO, Geneva, 2009.

[7] http://www.unodc.org/docs/treatment/WHO_-_UNODC_Joint_Programme_Brochure.pdf.

to promote the delivery of low-cost, evidence-based, mainstreamed services. UNODC is developing similar partnerships with other United Nations organizations for drug abuse prevention.

37. As the leading UNAIDS agency in the area of injecting drug use and HIV, UNODC, jointly with WHO and the UNAIDS secretariat, developed, adapted and disseminated other evidence-based guidelines and best practices related to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users, including gender-responsive operational tools and guidelines, and provided technical assistance to governments and civil society for their implementation.

B. Supply dimension

1. Regional initiatives to counter illicit production of and trafficking in drugs

38. The Triangular Initiative between Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan to facilitate border control and legal cooperation remained a cornerstone of UNODC technical support to address the trafficking of Afghan opiates. A first pilot joint operation under this initiative was launched in March 2009 and led to drug seizures and the dismantling of criminal drug networks.

39. In 2008, Afghanistan accounted for 93 per cent of global production of opium poppy. In the same year, UNODC launched the regional Rainbow Strategy, addressing key issues such as tackling Afghan opium production, trafficking and consumption through cross-border cooperation; creating regional intelligence-sharing networks; developing precursor control networks; monitoring money flows; and aiding drug demand reduction efforts. Within the strategy, Operation TARCET (Targeted Anti-trafficking Regional Communication, Expertise and Training) established partnerships among countries that led to sizeable seizures of chemical precursors in Afghanistan, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

40. Through the Paris Pact, UNODC facilitates periodic consultations and strategic thinking at the expert and policy levels among development partners in order to discuss, identify and set in motion coordinated actions to stem the trafficking of opiates from Afghanistan and address the drug abuse situation in priority countries. In 2008, UNODC organized meetings of senior international counter-narcotics officials to review and improve regional and international efforts to contain the Afghan opiate threat, with a focus on the Black Sea and East Africa regions, as well as the financial flows linked to the illicit production and trafficking of Afghan opiates. The first concrete outcomes were noted during 2008, with significant seizures of the precursor chemical acetic anhydride throughout the region and multi-ton seizures in both Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan. In addition, the first-ever joint operation against drug-trafficking networks was carried out by Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), and Pakistan in March 2009, leading to seizures of drugs and the arrest of drug traffickers.

41. UNODC has also developed the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM), an Internet-based tool for coordinating counter-narcotics technical assistance in countries along the main opiate-trafficking routes from Afghanistan.

ADAM contains information on over 500 counter-narcotics projects in the region and has over 200 active users.

42. The UNODC-supported Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), a law enforcement counter-narcotics information-exchange platform in Central Asia, has been operational since November 2007. The Centre supports its constituent partners, the broader region and beyond in the facilitation of information on illicit drug trafficking and persons involved in the coordination of operational law enforcement responses among Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In addition, UNODC has assisted States in the Persian Gulf area in the establishment of agencies to counter cross-border drug trafficking.

43. A regional programme to promote the rule of law and human security in South-Eastern Europe was developed in 2008, also covering drug-related problems. Projects have been implemented in various areas, with particular emphasis on counter-narcotics enforcement.

44. UNODC has prepared a regional programme for promoting the rule of law and human security in the Caribbean for the period 2009-2011, including illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as challenges to development in the region. The Santo Domingo partnership monitoring mechanism is a technical assistance project aimed at facilitating periodic consultations and strategic thinking among partners and experts at the policy level in order to jointly discuss, identify and set in motion coordinated actions to stem illicit drug trafficking, as well as related organized crime, from, to and through Central America and the Caribbean, prepared pursuant to Commission resolution 52/11.

45. In partnership with the World Customs Organization, the UNODC Container Control Programme established special operational units in Ghana, Pakistan, Senegal and, in 2009, Turkmenistan, for the profiling of containerized freight for inspection. The programme is also expanding to include other seaports and dry ports in the Central Asian region, with additional plans on track for a regional response for Caspian Sea ports and key installations in South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

2. Control of amphetamine-type stimulants

46. The manufacture, trafficking and consumption patterns of synthetic drugs have demonstrated a unique capacity to swiftly shift and overwhelm public health and public security agencies in vulnerable countries. The publication of the UNODC report *Amphetamines and Ecstasy: 2008 Global ATS Assessment*[8] and the *Global SMART Update 2009*[9] highlighted the challenges involved in monitoring the dynamic and mobile synthetic-drug market. In recognition of the need for a focused global response to the ATS problem, UNODC launched the global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Report and Trends (SMART) programme, designed to assist Member States in key priority regions to generate, manage, analyse and report synthetic-drug information and to provide the international community with an evidence base for effective operational responses and interventions.

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[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.12.

[9] http://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/ATS_Newsletter_VOL1_2009_web.pdf.

3. Combating money-laundering

47. UNODC provided technical assistance to more than 100 countries and jurisdictions in 2008 through its Global Programme against Money Laundering. A mentoring initiative forms part of this support, offering eight field-based experts who deliver sustainable assistance in Central Asia, South-East Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Pacific islands. UNODC has also assumed a coordination role in the Pacific Anti-Money Laundering Programme, which provides legal and operational technical assistance through mentoring to 14 Pacific Islands Forum jurisdictions. The Global Programme against Money Laundering took the lead in a new initiative on financial flows to and from Afghanistan linked to illicit drug production and trafficking, producing a draft report in conjunction with partners – the International Monetary Fund, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Egmont Group, the Eurasian Group and the World Bank.

4. Action of the Subsidiary bodies

48. UNODC acts as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, namely, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, with a view to strengthening regional cooperation among law enforcement authorities in the fight against drug trafficking. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies were held in 2008 and 2009: the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Yamoussoukro from 8 to 12 September 2008; the Eighteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Tegucigalpa from 13 to 17 October 2008 (UNODC/HONLAF/2008/5); the forty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Tehran from 16 to 20 November 2008 (UNODC/SUBCOM/2008/2), and the Thirty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 10 to 13 February 2009 (UNODC/HONLAP/2009/32/5).

49. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs proved to be unique forums that provide drug law enforcement authorities from countries of specific regions with the opportunity to exchange information, enhance their cooperation at the technical and operational levels in the area of drug control and build trust and partnerships among counterparts in different countries. They transmitted their recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[10] leading to the adoption of a number of resolutions, including resolution 52/10, "Strengthening interregional cooperation among the States of Latin America and the Caribbean and the States of West Africa in combating drug trafficking".

[10] E/CN.7/2009/5.

C. Sustainable livelihoods

1. Alternative development programmes

50. In Afghanistan, UNODC continues its work to implement the Opium Poppy Free Road Map, in close collaboration with national and local governments. Investments in infrastructure, education and health were made, and the UNODC programme focused on addressing the immediate needs of farmers in order to assist the Afghan Government in consolidating the poppy reduction campaign.

51. UNODC activities in Myanmar focused on addressing the food security issue; its projects concentrated on basic infrastructure (water supply systems, schools, clinics and roads) and innovative agricultural technologies and offered a number of strategies to assist farmers in overcoming food shortages. UNODC alternative development projects increased paddy rice yields and improved the management of livestock. On a broader scale, UNODC continues to support the Kokang and Wa initiative, recognizing that the coordination of development partners is critical for success in food security and poverty reduction.

52. UNODC programmes in Colombia helped farmers to increase the production and marketing of cacao, coffee and natural rubber. To date, almost 50,000 families have participated in the Productive Projects Programme. Alternative development projects have also focused on environmental conservation and now integrate Kyoto Protocol activities into their programming. The protection of natural ecosystems is being promoted through the Forest Warden Families Programme, in which families that formerly earned their income from illicit cultivation or were at risk of being involved are employed as forest wardens in tropical forests.

53. In Peru, UNODC assisted small-farmer cooperatives in continuing to increase export levels of alternative development products. In 2008, export volume grew to $92,280,000, an increase of 55.2 per cent over the $59,500,000 recorded in 2007. Programmes benefited approximately 23,000 farming families and covered an area of 68,000 hectares with a per capita income of $4,011. UNODC projects work with local communities to diversify agricultural production as well as satisfy international and national market demand. Products such as organic cacao, organic coffee, palm oil, palmito and ornamental plants make up a large portion of the export base.

54. In Bolivia, UNODC supported farming families to engage in commercially viable and sustainable licit activities, including livestock breeding, forestry, agriculture and industrial activities, where significant income increases were achieved. Successes in agroforestry were consolidated, and the joint UNODC-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations project Jatun Sach'a came to a close after 14 years of implementation.

55. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNODC worked in collaboration with the Government to implement alternative development projects promoting food security and poverty reduction. UNODC continued to support the National Programme Strategy for the Post Opium Scenario, targeting 1,100 villages in conjunction with other development partners such as the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Asian Development Bank and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In 2008, the UNODC

alternative development programme assisted the Lao Government in drafting its National Drug Control Master Plan, a five-year strategy to address the illicit drug problem in the country.

56. Globally, UNODC continued its catalytic role and strengthened the South-South cooperative mechanism between the Andean countries and those of South-East Asia through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and the preparation of a best practices technical guide highlighting the experiences of the UNODC programme in the Andean region. UNODC continues to raise the awareness of the broader development community about alternative development in order to ensure that these programmes are seen within the framework of broad-based agricultural and rural development. In this connection, UNODC is a member of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development with a view to strengthening the coordination of international development activities and aligning donor development plans and programmes.

2. Monitoring of illicit crops

57. In 2008, UNODC, in collaboration with the Governments of Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, continued to monitor the extent of illicit crop cultivation. This collaboration provided annual estimates of heroin and cocaine production for all major production areas, based on scientifically valid methods. A continuation of cannabis monitoring in Morocco undertaken between 2003 and 2005 is envisaged for 2010. The results were published in national, regional and global reports, including updates on specific areas of interest such as farm-gate prices of drug products and verified eradicated areas.[11] UNODC also strengthened scientific cooperation with centres of excellence in statistics and remote sensing to improve existing methodologies and develop new methods taking into account new research and technologies.

58. In 2008, potential opium production in Afghanistan was estimated at 7,700 tons, a 6 per cent decrease from 2007. In 2007, Afghanistan accounted for 93 per cent of potential global opium production, which was estimated at 8,890 tons. The report *Afghanistan: Opium Survey 2008* showed that the area of opium poppy cultivation fell to 157,000 hectares, a 19 per cent decrease from 2007. UNODC has strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan, which has taken over responsibility for implementing many of the opium survey activities and has verified the eradication activities conducted by the Government.

59. The area under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has decreased significantly over the years, from 130,300 hectares in 1998 to only 21,500 hectares in 2006 (an 83 per cent decrease). The successful downward trend stalled, however, in 2007, and the area under cultivation increased by 3 per cent in 2008. Despite the strong decline over the last decade, Myanmar is still the second-largest opium poppy grower in the world, after Afghanistan.

60. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the area under opium poppy cultivation decreased from 26,800 hectares in 1998 to 1,600 hectares in 2008, a

[11] http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop-monitoring/index.html.

reduction of 94 per cent. Thus, the country continued to account for less than 1 per cent of the world's opium poppy cultivation.

61. Coca-bush cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru was 167,600 hectares in 2008, an 8 per cent decrease from 2007. This was due mainly to a significant decrease in Colombia, which was not offset by small increases in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru. Global cocaine production decreased even more, by 15 per cent, owing to the continuing effects of area reduction and lower productivity in the main coca-cultivating regions of Colombia. In 2008, a second assessment of coca cultivation in Ecuador was made (the first was in 2006), again verifying that the level of cultivation was insignificant.

D. Monitoring drug trends

1. Data collection and research

62. UNODC released the *World Drug Report 2009* in June 2009. The report provided detailed estimates and trends on production, trafficking and consumption in the opium/heroin, coca/cocaine, cannabis and ATS markets. In 2009, for the first time, the *World Drug Report* featured special sections on the quality of drug data available to UNODC, trends in drug use among young people and police-recorded drug offences. It also discussed one of the unintended consequences of drug control – the black market for drugs – and how the international community could best tackle it. Other activities included the release of the annual illicit crop survey results and studies on the Balkans, West Africa, Central America and the Caribbean referred to in other parts of the present report. "A century of international drug control", published in February 2009, presented the basic historical development of the international drug control system.[12]

2. Emerging issues

Vulnerable transit regions

63. In recent years, UNODC research has drawn the attention of the international community to vulnerable regions located on major transnational drug-trafficking routes, including the Caribbean, Central America, South-Eastern Europe and West Africa. This analytical work has fed into the development of special programmes for these regions. The report "Crime and its impact on the Balkans"[13] (March 2008) found that the region continued to be the premiere transit zone for heroin destined for Western Europe. The paper "The threat of narco-trafficking in the Americas"[14] (October 2008) stressed the impact of the drug trade on other forms of crime, in particular violent crime. UNODC continued to pay special attention to Africa and, in particular, to cocaine trafficking through West Africa, which was analysed in the report "Drug trafficking as a security threat in West Africa"[15] (October 2008)

[12] http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/100_Years_of_Drug_Control.pdf.

[13] http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Balkan_study.pdf.

[14] http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/OAS_Study_2008.pdf.

[15] http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/Drug-Trafficking-WestAfrica-English.pdf.

prepared for the Economic Community of West African States Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking as a Security Threat to West Africa.

3. Oversupply of heroin

64. Afghanistan supplies the bulk of the world's illicit opiate markets, accounting for more than 90 per cent of global illicit opium production. The supply of opium exceeds estimated demand by a wide margin, with grave and far-reaching implications for Afghanistan and the rest of the world. The opiate trade fuels opiate consumption and addiction in countries along the main drug-trafficking routes, driving the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases before reaching the main consumer markets in Europe. UNODC has set up a monitoring capacity focusing on the Afghan opiate trade, including trafficking flows, stockpiling and the link between the opiate economy and insurgency.

E. Scientific and forensic support

65. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 50/4, entitled "Improving the quality and performance of drug analysis laboratories", UNODC has provided support to institutions and government experts from over 85 Member States in the form of quality-assurance support, guidelines and best practice manuals, reference samples and field identification test kits. The international collaborative exercise, a UNODC proficiency testing scheme on the analysis of controlled substances in seizures and biological fluids is offered to Member States to allow national laboratories to continuously monitor their performance; 81 laboratories from 39 Member States have participated. Additional tools provided by UNODC to the drug forensic laboratory sector included *Guidance for the Implementation of a Quality Management System in Drug Testing Laboratories*[16] and *Guidelines on Representative Drug Sampling*.[17]

66. UNODC extended its support to the law enforcement sector by completing a computer-based training module on drug testing based on its existing field identification test kits for drugs and precursors. The series of multilingual dictionaries on narcotic and psychotropic substances, an important resource for regulatory and health authorities, was extended to precursors under international control.

67. In Asia and in Southern Africa, UNODC continued to foster regional cooperation between forensic laboratories, which resulted in the establishment of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network and the Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network.

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[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.13.

[17] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XI.10.

IV. Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. Strategy for the period 2008-2011: regional and thematic approach

68. The three pillars of the work programme of UNODC are (a) research to increase knowledge and understanding of drug and crime issues and to expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; (b) normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of substantive and secretariat services to treaty-based and governing bodies; and (c) field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. The three subprogrammes under programme 13 of the strategic framework of the United Nations for the period 2010-2011 correspond broadly to these three themes identified in the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for UNODC.[18] The integrated approach to addressing the challenges posed by drugs, crime and terrorism places the work of the Office within the context of the development, security and peace agenda.

69. In line with its medium-term strategy, UNODC has been developing integrated, multi-component regional and thematic programmes, marking an evolution of its work from project-based assistance to a more flexible programme-based approach. It is expected that this new approach will lead to greater transparency and engagement, alignment with governments' priorities and the involvement of other entities of the United Nations system, as well as to a greater degree of funding flexibility and an improvement of the funding situation of the Office.

2. Partnerships

70. Although the work of UNODC is mandated by a broad range of international legally binding instruments, its regular budget resources amount to less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations. UNODC is therefore highly dependent on voluntary funding, and that creates a lack of predictability of resources and a potential for the distortion of programme priorities. Voluntary donor contributions for the drug programme (earmarked and general-purpose funding) come from a group of major donors,[19] as well as from other donor countries such as Brazil, China, Colombia, India and Peru, including in the form of cost-sharing.

71. In 2008 and 2009, UNODC continued holding regular policy consultations with the European Commission on drug and crime matters with a view to strengthening field-based cooperation, and engaged at the senior policy level with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Community to explore the potential for joint operational activities, including in the areas of countering money-laundering and sustainable livelihoods. In the context of

[18] Economic and Social Council resolutions 2007/12, annex, and 2007/19.

[19] Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and European Commission.

the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), UNODC initiated a strategic policy exchange with the African Development Bank, including in the areas of anti-corruption, countering money-laundering and drug control.

72. Throughout the reporting period, UNODC continued its advocacy and fund-raising activities with the private sector, working with representatives from the media, the entertainment industry, the international press, NGOs and foundations.

3. Governance and financial situation

73. In 2008, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs established, pursuant to its decision 51/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice decision 17/2, a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. The working group transmitted its recommendations to both Commissions.[20] On the basis of those recommendations, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 52/13, decided to establish a standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on governance and finance. A mirror resolution was adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (resolution 18/3), to lead to the setting up of a single working group reporting to both bodies. The working group will provide, inter alia, a forum for dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat, and propose pragmatic recommendations on ways to enhance the governance and funding of UNODC.

74. UNODC has a deficient funding model, as the Office relies on a handful of donors; core funding is not assured and predictable; and the funding levels are not commensurate with the mandate. While UNODC has seen significant growth in special-purpose voluntary contributions (rising from $64 million in 2003 to more than $245 million in 2008), general-purpose income has shrunk from $19 million in 2003 to $15.2 million in 2008 and to $13 million in 2009 (general-purpose funds are used mainly to cover the costs of key staff positions in the areas of evaluation, policy, analysis and research, advocacy, strategic planning, human security and the rule of law, health and human development). The drop in general-purpose income in 2009 presented UNODC with an immediate challenge: to reduce current commitment levels by $3.9 million. Measures were and would continue to be taken to freeze vacant posts at headquarters, to reposition the field office network and increase cost-sharing agreements with host countries, and to adjust the organizational structure at headquarters to enhance internal coherence and optimize the use of resources. Those cost-saving measures, together with the regular budget economies contained in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011, could pose serious challenges for the ability of UNODC to meet the expectations of Member States and could compromise the ability of the Office to deliver on existing and new mandates or service new governance arrangements within existing resources.

[20] E/CN.7/2009/10-E/CN.15/2009/10.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

75. The UNODC *World Drug Report 2009* provides evidence that cultivation of crops for drugs (opium poppy and coca) is flat or down. Most importantly, major markets for opiates (Europe and South-East Asia), cocaine (North America) and cannabis (North America, Oceania and Europe) are in decline. The increase in the consumption of synthetic stimulants, particularly in East Asia and the Middle East, is cause for concern, although use is declining in developed countries.

76. Illicit drugs, however, continue to pose a health danger to humanity. Based on WHO estimates, drug use is one of the top 20 risk factors to health worldwide and one of the top 10 in high-income countries. Some 2.7 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2007. Injecting drug users infected with HIV number about 3 million, and less than 10 per cent of them are receiving treatment for drug dependence. Measures to prevent HIV among drug users are not available in many countries where the epidemic is spreading rapidly.

77. It is for these reasons that drugs are, and should remain, controlled. With this in mind, Member States at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs confirmed their unequivocal support for the United Nations conventions that have established the world drug control system.

78. Upon the closing of the decade launched in 1998 by the special session of the General Assembly on drugs, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs formulated the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, giving new impetus to international drug control. The onus is now on Member States to follow up and implement these international commitments in order to enhance progress to effectively counter the world drug problem.

79. Member States that have not acceded to the United Nation Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption should do so. All Member States should implement these instruments, which can contribute to the prevention and control of drug-related crime, posing a serious security threat in many parts of the world.

80. Health is at the centre of drug control, in line with the spirit of the drug conventions aimed at protecting the health of people by preventing the use of dangerous drugs, alleviating the suffering of drug-dependent persons through treatment and taking care of drug-related health problems. Drug dependence should be recognized as a disease that needs to be treated using non-discriminatory and non-stigmatizing human rights-based approaches and interventions.

81. Member States should adopt a comprehensive approach, including drug dependence treatment; HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; and other health-care measures for affected individuals, mainstreaming these activities into the public health-care system. Demand reduction methods and programmes should be evidence-based and cost-effective.

82. Most people start to use drugs during their youth, and it is on young people that drug prevention activities are best targeted. Member States should prevent the use of illicit drugs through coherent evidence-informed interventions in a range of settings, in particular the family, the school, the workplace and the community.

83. Drug-related crimes take place mostly in urban settings controlled by criminal groups. Governments should address the problem of slums and dereliction in cities, through the renewal of infrastructures and assistance to youth, who are vulnerable to drugs and crime, with education, jobs and sport.

84. The Internet is being exploited for drug trafficking and other forms of crime; new international arrangements against cybercrime are necessary. In order to effectively combat cybercrime, a relatively recent form of criminal activity not restricted by national boundaries, international cooperation needs to be further enhanced, including through the provision of technical assistance and training tools.

85. Member States should make maximum use of the technical expertise and programme support on offer through UNODC to address the threat of illicit drug trafficking, requesting its assistance, including through its network of field offices, and supporting its in-country and cross-regional initiatives.

86. In meeting the challenges to law enforcement presented through globalization, Member States should take steps to ensure that they utilize to the fullest extent the opportunity presented by the five regional meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to strengthen operational cross-border cooperation, information exchange and judicial cooperation, and also as a venue for developing operational cooperation and reporting thereon to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

87. Member States are encouraged to participate in and resource regional initiatives such as the UNODC Container Control Programme, which has proved particularly effective in helping States to strengthen their commercial sea borders against trafficking in illicit drugs, their precursors and other forms of contraband.

88. The Paris Pact initiative has established itself as an effective coordination mechanism for States affected by the trafficking of illicit opium produced in Afghanistan, and Member States are encouraged to utilize its resources and act in concert to identify emerging trends and focus a collective response to meet the ongoing threat.

89. Member States should take measures to advance monitoring for illicit synthetic drugs, where it does not already exist, linking existing ATS-related activities around the world and taking measures to further the development of monitoring capacity, including for the early identification of emerging ATS trends, and to generate prevalence data.

90. Money-laundering is rampant. The recommendations devised to prevent the use of financial institutions to launder criminal money must be honoured by all Member States. Member States that have not yet done so should consider updating their legal and regulatory frameworks by actively contributing to international cooperation and establishing domestic multidisciplinary financial investigation and financial intelligence units.

91. Development is essential for reducing the world's supply of illicit drugs. Poverty, marginalization, insecurity and lack of opportunities to earn sustainable livelihoods are important reasons for illicit crop cultivation. Significant progress in reducing illicit crop cultivation in certain regions and countries has not resulted in a corresponding significant overall reduction in illicit drug production. Long-term national and international political and financial commitment to the development of

the areas and communities affected by illicit crop cultivation is needed to enable the affected States to sustain the gains achieved and to work towards the elimination of illicit drug crops.

92. Alternative development remains a cornerstone of supply reduction strategies, though its application has been wanting because of the limited financial and technical resources available to UNODC and affected Member States. Reaching just 23 per cent of the estimated 5.6 million people affected is not enough to make a considerable impact on illicit crop cultivation.

93. The broader development community, particularly the international financial institutions, have yet to fully recognize the importance of directly addressing small farmers within the context of poverty reduction and food security. Aside from isolated support, the international financial institutions have not incorporated alternative development areas within their programmes, significantly reducing the opportunities to make a larger impact with increased efficiency.

94. Member States, the international development community and the international financial institutions should increase their financial and technical support to and through UNODC for the implementation of alternative development programmes and projects in Member States experiencing problems with illicit crop cultivation.

95. Member States should fully support the strengthening of South-South cooperation by offering to share best practices and lessons learned in alternative development as well as in broad-scale agricultural and rural development.

96. Member States should consider supporting the design and implementation of the new UNODC regional programmes, which will ensure full ownership by the States concerned and the involvement of United Nations partners, key stakeholders and international funding partners. Member States should support the reconfiguration of the network of field offices of UNODC, aimed at increasing synergy and reducing costs.

97. Member States should consider providing regular and adequate resources to enable UNODC to implement its mandates and to provide support in accordance with the increasing demand for technical assistance. Member States should be encouraged to commit a share of their contributions to UNODC to general-purpose funding so as to maintain a sustainable balance between general-purpose funds and special-purpose funds. Member States should be encouraged to commit themselves to making, on a voluntary basis, biennial indicative pledges, aligned with the UNODC biennial budget cycle, in order to enhance the predictability and stability of funding for UNODC.

98. Member States should discuss ways to encourage host countries to make voluntary contributions for the regular operating costs of UNODC country and programme offices.

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African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/196, and consistent with the needs of African countries in the field of crime prevention and strengthened criminal justice systems for good governance and consolidation of the rule of law, the present report describes the measures being taken by the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to provide the needed technical assistance to African countries through its substantive programmes and activities developed to support States in the region in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. The report also contains information on the details of the efforts of the Institute to mobilize regional capacities and institutional collaboration as effective support mechanisms for practical intervention measures in Africa. In the report, the governance and management of the Institute are examined, and measures taken to initiate and maintain international cooperation and partnerships as opportunities for funding and support are described. The report also contains information on the future of the Institute as a unique promoter of socio-economic development in the region through crime prevention initiatives and on practical measures aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the Institute.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/196. It outlines the programmes and operations of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders aimed at consolidating the momentum of action plans in the promotion of practical measures to combat crime in Africa. The report also describes the unique crime problem faced by African countries, outlines explicit proposals for mobilizing the resources needed to address the situation and the course of action taken by the Institute in offering technical support to relevant authorities as they cope with their national as well as regional crime problems. Further proposals for coordinating the necessary collaboration among partners for the implementation of the Institute's programmes are set out. The report describes the universal nature of crime trends and the general vulnerability they impose on the development of African countries, invariably calling for remedial measures based on shared values and collective action. The activities described in the report highlight the importance of the emerging partnership between the Institute, its member States and the international crime prevention network, emphasizing the significance of local, regional and international initiatives for the strengthening of crime prevention efforts. The report also underscores the growing significance of empirical scientific knowledge, local resources and selected traditional practices as core ingredients in improving capacity for effective crime prevention and management of criminal justice systems. The report emphasizes the need to incorporate crime prevention safeguards in national planning processes for sustained socio-economic development.

2. The period under review was a time of daunting challenges manifested in waves of organized crime that stretched across the African continent. Criminal activities became entrenched in the systems of social services and management of public utilities, facilitated by factors such as corruption, deficient rule of law, civil unrest, food insecurity, unemployment and poor economic performance, all of which have serious implications for the stability of the region. These challenges have caused considerable disruption to civil society and raised legitimate fears about lawlessness and insecurity in the Africa region. This situation requires a coordinated international response calling for common strategies and customized intervention measures by relevant crime prevention networks, based on threat assessments to address specific vulnerabilities of individual countries.

3. The Institute continues to receive crime reports indicating that, besides bearing the effects of the conventional realm of crime problems, Africa is disproportionately facing various internationally generated challenges. At the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, an assessment of the progress made by African countries towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals reflected serious concerns about their low human development index rankings. There is sufficient reason to attribute the low rankings to the prevalence of crime, which is responsible in large measure for targets being missed. Although a review of the targets was deemed necessary, the current downturn that has affected the major economies of the world has caused legitimate concerns about a considerable negative impact on the economies of Africa, which are largely connected to the developed countries through trade and aid packages. It will require specifically designed austerity programmes to safeguard the economies of Africa from the effects of low

performance resulting from the global economic crunch. With the volatile crime situation in the region, this phenomenon has the potential for aggravated vulnerability. The challenges posed by crime require pragmatic and innovative remedial measures based on the unique experiences of each region.

4. Another challenge that is increasingly manifest in Africa is the pollution of the environment. The ultimate impact has been disastrous climate change in African countries, severely affecting agricultural production, as well as the unique and diverse potential for tourism, essential for national revenue. This has in turn aggravated national food security problems. Food security is considered a requirement for national stability and development. Therefore, food scarcity represents a threat of political instability. This can undermine the attainment of planned targets for social growth and encourage criminal activities. While there are initiatives at the regional and international levels to address the impact of acute climate change on their national stability, African countries are still vulnerable to exploitation by fraudulent actors. Significantly, the lack of modern green technology to assist African countries in coping with the effects of climate change exposes them further to the loss of ecological resources such as wildlife, timber and other flora and fauna and to criminal activities such as smuggling of persons and goods and illicit drug trafficking. It is anticipated that the combination of those factors may give rise to rampant crime in Africa, calling for focused initiatives. The existing criminal justice system in most African countries does not have sufficiently skilled personnel and infrastructure and is therefore not suited to manage the emergence of new crime trends.

5. There is a growing recognition that crime and poverty are interrelated. In the search for effective measures to eradicate poverty and the threat it poses to the standards of living, Africa is progressively becoming linked to the regional and international mechanisms for the generation and fair distribution of wealth. The current debate centres on the balance between developing industrial production and supporting agricultural raw material inputs to make value-added products. The private sector has been identified as a viable medium to stimulate economic growth, the benefits of which are expected to translate into poverty eradication. However, the process of creating economically conducive environments for investment through the provision of incentives to attract economic ventures often becomes difficult because of lengthy and flawed bureaucratic procedures, which are susceptible to manipulation by criminal groups that eventually act to misappropriate the proceeds of nascent investments. Further, the spillover effects of faltering State formation processes in the various regions of Africa have facilitated the emergence of new trends in organized crime, such as extremism and a resurgence of piracy off the East African coast. This can further be exploited to undermine the development of investments in the region, adversely affecting prospects for economic growth, which depends on good governance and the rule of law.

6. The weak laws and existing justice systems undermine efforts to facilitate the prosecution of new crime trends. The situation is further complicated by factors such as uncontrolled population growth, high illiteracy rates, low levels of technical and management skills, poor infrastructure, uncontrolled emigration patterns, limited financial resources and weak institutional capacities, all of which pose formidable challenges for any possible meaningful investment in Africa. Moreover,

there are competing alternative opportunities available elsewhere, making the attainment of social development more elusive.

7. As part of the wider global effort to combat crime, the Institute's programme of activities makes the needs of Member States the focus for intervention. It emphasizes the need to create necessary coalitions with all partners in the process of achieving effective crime prevention policies. This process will be realized through wide consultations with professional bodies, civil society organizations and government departments to provide a united, coherent response to the threat posed by crime. As a necessary strategy, measures are in place for strengthening institutional pillars of integrity, such as the judiciary, law enforcement and prosecution, through capacity-building, the collection and sharing of data, research for risk assessment and the provision of technical support. The Institute will continue to play a leading role in sourcing and providing technical assistance to enhance the capacity of African countries for effective crime prevention. The Institute's programmes in this respect are strengthened by specific regional initiatives such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional programme for the period 2009-2011, which emphasizes the role of institutional intervention and the Revised African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012), aimed at encouraging Member States to participate in and own the regional initiatives for effective crime prevention, good governance and strengthened justice administration.

II. Governance and management

A. Governing Board

8. The fourth extraordinary session of the Governing Board of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was held in Nairobi on 2 March 2009. It was attended by Cameroon, the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, the Sudan and Uganda.

9. At that session, the Board ratified all the decisions it had taken at the preceding session, held in Khartoum in May 2008, focusing on a number of medium- and long-term mobilization measures. The Board noted with concern the low levels of financial contributions received from member States and made commitments in respect of practical measures aimed at improving the collection of outstanding contributions, as well as at sustaining the flow of financial remittances from member States. It directed the Institute to customize its programme of activities to the needs of member States and to sensitize high-profile authorities in each country to the relevance of the programmes planned for them as a measure for improving the visibility of the Institute among all African States. It was envisaged that this would appeal to countries and partners, and possibly increase the Institute's membership. In that regard, the Board urged the Institute to consider focusing on specific and general vulnerabilities of each country and to maximize the use of available initiatives to address crime problems with the existing funds.

10. The Board approved far-reaching proposals to boost the image of the Institute and to intensify its fund-raising efforts. Through specified frameworks, working committees with precise action plans were established to launch special initiatives

to approach African countries and attract their support for the Institute. In this respect, an African ministerial conference is scheduled to be convened in November 2009, during which practical measures aimed at rallying enough support for the Institute to operate at an optimal level, including the possibility of raising the threshold of member States' financial contributions, will be discussed.

11. With regard to the precarious financial situation of the Institute, the Board noted that the Governments of Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania had fulfilled their commitments to pay their financial contributions. The representatives of the Governments of Cameroon and Malawi stated that the financial contributions of their Governments would be received shortly after the session; the contribution from Malawi has already been received. Other measures for increased support considered by the Board included the use of political networks to encourage member States to pay their contributions and to urge others to become members of the Institute; continued sensitization and lobbying of African countries at regional ministerial conferences; and mobilization visits to various African capitals. In this regard, the Institute was informed of the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support its activities, following the visit of the Director to Kinshasa in February 2009.

12. At the fourth extraordinary session, the Governing Board approved the programme of work of the Institute and thanked the General Assembly, UNODC and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network; regional bodies such as the African Union Commission; and the private sector for the assistance provided to the Institute in the implementation of several activities. The Board also appreciated the opportunities for collaboration premised on the existing cooperation with civil society organizations and tertiary institutions and universities. The Board noted that in its resolution 63/196 the General Assembly had commended the Institute for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. With regard to the long-term measures involving real estate investments, the Board noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the Government of Uganda that, in total support of this venture, it was preparing to issue the property deeds to the Institute shortly after the session. In that connection, the Board appointed the Government of Uganda to spearhead the search for real estate developers and development partners to fund the envisaged project on the Institute's premises.

B. General direction and management

14. As crime continues to hinder the development goals of African countries, the Institute has continued to address emerging concerns about strategic interests to sustain their socio-economic development. Importantly, this has involved the need to combat crime and its destabilizing effects on local communities, as well as to improve available opportunities for productivity and the creation of wealth. Crime trends are becoming increasingly dynamic in nature and imposing considerable obstructions to the attainment of sustained socio-economic development in Africa, thus having a negative impact on the stability of communities.

15. The main focus of the programme activities of the Institute has been on building a self-sustaining minimum capacity to identify, control and prevent the

emergence of criminal activity. In its preliminary efforts to achieve this, the Institute is continuing to assess the needs of African countries in identified areas of vulnerability. In some countries in Africa where threat assessments have been attempted, it has been acknowledged that the challenges encountered have been a consequence mainly of a deficiency of resources with which to realize a meaningful crime prevention strategy. Similarly, attempts to strengthen criminal justice systems have suffered from a glaring lack of facilitation, at the prosecution and adjudication level and in the correctional and rehabilitation system.

16. The activities carried out by the Institute during the period under review focused on the coupling of diverse views from all sectors of society with the technical support of specialized agencies and other partners at the national, regional and international levels. Through collaboration with local and international sources of expertise, the Institute has benefited from the support of the following entities: UNODC, civil society organizations, professional and academic organizations, the mass media and local authorities. The Institute has also continued to cooperate with agencies in various African countries whose mandate is the promotion of crime prevention and criminal justice in Africa. The Institute has increasingly become involved in the implementation of regional programmes in collaboration with UNODC and other partners. It plans to seek further opportunities for collaboration with other agencies as a means to reach out to more Member States.

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

17. Crime prevention does not generally appear to have priority as a national concern in most of Africa: it is not sufficiently scaled up in mainstream strategies for social development. Owing to the inadequacy of resources, crime prevention competes unevenly with other national concerns. Specific investments aimed at promoting crime prevention are lacking in the management of public affairs. Rather, it is the impact of crime that appears to draw the attention of relevant authorities and result in reactive measures. The weaknesses in crime prevention lead to subsequent difficulties at the level of crime control mechanisms.

18. On the basis of needs assessments, the availability of resources and the sensitization of countries to the importance of international conventions to address crime problems, the programme activities of the Institute have received not only the approval of the Governing Board, but also overtures of active collaboration from Member States and partners. Other regional initiatives that are relevant to specific threats to African countries are also applicable. Through the sharing of experiences at the regional level and on the basis of regional cooperation, a strategy that has largely been found suitable and effective, the Institute has been able to respond to several countries' needs within its limited resources. Events have demonstrated that most African countries are fertile ground for the entrenchment of criminal activity. There is a consensus that even though the countries in the Africa region have different political, economic and historical backgrounds, they all face similar threats posed by drugs and other crime trends, and that these threats can be tackled only through a unified regional response. The Institute's programme of activities

addresses a comprehensive schedule of needs in accordance with national and regional priorities.

B. Project activities

19. The main projects carried out by the Institute are described below. The funds received from member States for the period under review have made the implementation of the programme of activities possible. Guided by the resolution of the Governing Board and supported by General Assembly resolution 63/196, all the activities have been implemented on a cost-sharing basis between the member States, partners, including UNODC, and the Institute.

20. The projects focus on carrying out research, strengthening cooperation, disseminating information and providing technical assistance in capacity-building, emphasizing training and the collection, analysis and utilization of crime data for the development of remedial strategies and effective policy.

1. Research

(a) "From prison back home" project

21. The "From prison back home" project is a human rights-based intervention initiative, founded on the principles of social work and the involvement of prison authorities and local community members, aimed at promoting the social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in African countries. It has now become a cornerstone reference in the training sessions and exchange of good practices for correctional authorities, as well as being instrumental in the envisaged penal reform proposals in African countries. It focuses on the realities of communities and the value of available local resources. It offers a good opportunity for empowering local communities to assert their authority to regulate locally approved social control measures for problematic situation resolution and to make valuable contributions to the process of social rehabilitation and reintegration of former prisoners. The project further profiles local communities as a nucleus for wider regional harmony and security and enables them to become vital tools to fight recidivism. Following requests from the Governments of Burundi, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania to introduce the project, in May 2009 the Institute started a series of short courses for relevant personnel to strengthen the principles promoted by the project. The first module of the courses has been concluded, and certificates were awarded to the participants from the above-mentioned countries. The courses will be replicated in other regions of Africa and include as many countries as possible.

(b) Evaluation study of alternative dispute resolution systems in Rwanda

22. It is generally acknowledged that African correctional facilities are faced with deficiencies in relation to effective rehabilitation of inmates. Prison overcrowding is cited as one of the manifestations of flawed processes of criminal justice administration. Out of concern regarding the escalating costs of managing prisons and the ineffectiveness of existing rehabilitation efforts, the consideration of arrangements for alternative dispute resolution measures has taken centre stage in several African countries. The existing traditional justice systems largely favour the

mediation/reconciliation strategy. In situations of severe suspicion about the impartiality of the conventional criminal justice systems, continued conflict and retribution (in such forms as mob justice) are likely to prevail. In such a situation it is crucial to adopt practical, tailored initiatives that require the application of non-conventional mechanisms for administering justice, including traditional justice systems. Equally important is the need to give due attention to cultural sensitivities in the process. In the training courses at the Institute, all available alternative dispute resolution systems are explored through the free exchange of information.

23. The Institute is finalizing arrangements with partners that will include funding and facilitation for the implementation of the evaluation study of the *gacaca* system of dispensing justice in Rwanda. Consistent with its programme to develop and promote innovative projects that meet the needs of member States experiencing challenges in the implementation of effective criminal justice strategies, the Institute has embarked on a fact-finding consultative mission with the relevant authorities in Kigali. This evaluation will have a necessary connection with the earlier "From prison back home" study, the findings of which are expected to have wider implications for reforms in the criminal justice systems of several African countries.

(c) Impact assessment of community service orders in Kenya

24. The Institute received a request from the Government of Kenya for technical assistance to evaluate its programme of community service and after-care services. In response, discussions with the Kenyan Probation and After Care Services authorities have been initiated, and an impact-assessment visit was made by a delegation from Kenya to Uganda in June 2009 for necessary consultations and an exchange of information and experiences to identify good practices. Modalities for the evaluation of the community service programme, focusing on the prospects of extending technical assistance in capacity-building, as well as action-oriented research and information-sharing within the region, were emphasized in the discussions. Importantly, penal reform will represent a significant part of the technical assistance to help countries in the region to address the challenges of cross-border crime. Realistic practices for bail terms to reduce overcrowding, centring on initiatives that promote non-custodial sentences based on relevant traditional African practices, will be encouraged.

(d) Cyberwatch project

25. The search for partnerships to implement a wider awareness-raising campaign for more countries is ongoing. Several professional organizations and government departments have indicated interest. Building on the sensitization programme undertaken in Kampala and widely publicized through the media, the Institute is gradually developing a strong network to promote efforts aimed at fighting cybercrime. It is anticipated that through such a mechanism, the project will be replicated effectively in all subregions at little cost to all parties involved.

(e) Transnational trafficking in persons in Nigeria

26. The reports about the study conducted in Nigeria on strategies to curb transnational trafficking in human beings were launched in February 2009. The occasion of the launch was used to mobilize an effective network of partners in West Africa, including exploring opportunities for institutional capacity to

implement the follow-up of recommendations and proposals outlined in the report. The follow-up efforts emphasize the use of UNODC tools (such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children) and technical assistance to be provided by the Institute to facilitate the promotion of international conventions through appeals to countries to align their domestic legislation with international conventions.

(f) Study on trafficking in children

27. The study on the emerging trend of trafficking in children in Uganda has contributed to the current efforts by the authorities in Uganda to enhance public debate and make relevant legislation to curb human trafficking. This legislation has been hinged on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with specific reference to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Since its launch in July 2008, the report has attracted the attention of relevant civil society organizations, the media and legislative personnel in wide consultations on the proposals advanced. Efforts are emerging in respect of the need for forming a coalition against human trafficking, through the institutional frameworks, whose task will include raising awareness about trafficking in persons, punishing the criminals involved and preventing the scourge.

(g) Country profile project

28. In emphasizing the significance of the management of data, including the collection of empirical statistics, the Institute continues to maintain an updated database of crime-related statistics on Africa. The database has been useful in the recently received enquiries regarding resource persons and focal contacts in a number of African countries for the workshop entitled "Crime statistics: collection and analysis of data and trends in drugs, crime and victimization", which was held from 9 to 12 December 2008 in Addis Ababa, and the Expert Group Meeting on Crime Data Collection and Analysis, held from 28 to 30 January 2009 in Vienna. In all meetings and workshops, the difficulties of obtaining statistics in Africa have been blamed on the lack of strong institutional capacity to manage data professionally. The country profile project is an attempt to build capacity in African countries to preserve and utilize crime data for the assessment of threats and the development of policy and legislation in the process of combating crime. In order to fill in the gap, a course on data generation and use has been incorporated in training for law enforcement officers.

(h) Victimization survey

29. Having submitted to UNODC the report containing the findings of the pilot survey on crime trends in Uganda, the Institute awaits the outcome of the consideration of the implementation of the next phase. On the basis of the findings of the study, relevant mechanisms for intervention and policymaking at the regional and/or international level will be submitted to the appropriate authorities, with concrete proposals for action. With the agreement of UNODC, the Institute intends to organize a local experts' follow-up meeting with the relevant authorities in Uganda. A similar meeting may be organized in countries, such as Rwanda, that have participated in the surveys.

(i) Extradition and mutual legal assistance

30. Following wide consultations with various partners, the schedule of activities leading to an implementation programme for the project on extradition and mutual legal assistance is being considered. The Institute is currently updating the instrument for receiving current information for the database on the status of available legislation and existing arrangements among countries. The Institute has made an informal approach to the relevant authorities at the United States Department of Justice for a discussion on the status of the two draft conventions on extradition and mutual legal assistance, emphasizing emerging developments that have taken place in respect of their delayed finalization.

2. Training

(a) Short courses for improving criminal justice systems

31. In response to requests received from Member States, and after extensive consultations with correctional authorities, the Institute put together the elements of the first module of short courses for correctional and other officers in Africa. The programme and content of the scheduled training focused on the nature of reported concerns, taking into account the principle of sharing good practices and the sociocultural realities of each country and subregion. The course provided participants with current knowledge and skills needed in the general management of prisons, including the psychosociological analysis of the prisoner in Africa, and modern approaches for a successful social rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. The course also imparted:

(a) Basic skills for project proposal writing for fundable projects in prisons;

(b) Insight into techniques, for the generation and use of data in conducting research;

(c) A general appreciation of and knowledge for the implementation of regional and international instruments, such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Lilongwe Declaration and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

32. The course started in May 2009, at the secretariat of the Institute, for the pioneering group comprising Burundi, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda. Participants had the opportunity to interact with their colleagues and share experiences, exchange information based on good practices and identify practical solutions to challenges they face. Facilitators for the course were drawn from a cross-section of professional organizations and practising disciplines, including lawyers, prosecutors, correctional personnel and human rights advocates, a result of the network of partners that the Institute has developed.

33. It is expected that the course will be replicated in all the other regions of Africa, including other modules for personnel in the criminal justice system, such as the police, prosecutors, the judiciary and related professions. Arrangements to this effect have been started with relevant authorities, including the President of the African Correctional Services Association, the Commissioner of the Zambia Prison Services and Samuel Nkouli of Washington and Lee University.

(b) Training workshops on parole, probation and community corrections

34. Following the finalization of the training schedule of workshops in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia in the area of correctional reform in late 2007, the Institute is now focusing on including more countries in this capacity-building effort. Arrangements are being made with the authorities to draw up an action plan for the implementation of proposals that were made at the workshops in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia with the aim of improving understanding about non-custodial sanctions and promoting such sanctions in Africa. The Institute recently organized a short course for correctional officers from East Africa.

3. Information dissemination

(a) Production of reports and a newsletter

35. As an ongoing activity, the Institute has continued to produce reports on implemented activities that are disseminated to partner agencies and made available online.

(b) Crime prevention journal

36. In respect of the Institute's project to publish on a regular basis the *African Journal on Crime and Criminal Justice*, a compilation of research-based reports addressing crime patterns and prevention measures is currently being developed. The editorial board is also scrutinizing manuscripts for publication in the first edition. The journal would be an additional tool for fostering collaboration with publishers and research institutions and extending the Institute's base of contacts in order to further promote its activities. The research results will be the basis for training relevant personnel, as well as for advisory services to various African governments.

(c) Modernization of the information centre

37. The Institute is continuing with the updating of its online digital library with records of important expert meetings, conferences and visits during which thematic issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice administration have been discussed. Since the Online Public Access Catalogue facility is accessible worldwide, it is expected to improve the visibility of the Institute to prospective partners. This facility, coupled with the Institute's website, will significantly increase the potential for identifying active collaboration. Efforts are under way for the sourcing of online courses, which will contribute to the Institute's standing as a centre of excellence.

4. Consultancy

38. In order to consolidate the search for effective crime data collection in Africa, the Institute hosted a UNODC consultant from August to December 2008, whose mission was to enhance the value of crime statistics and incorporate the generation and management of data as one the crucial functional operations in African countries. This consultancy was in line with the existing collaboration between the Institute and UNODC and demonstrates the importance of implementing the programme of work in conjunction with all relevant partners.

5. Cooperation

(a) Effective cooperation between the Institute and its partners

39. Significantly, the value of cooperation between countries and improved relations between agencies and individual experts has taken a prominent role in promoting crime prevention strategies. By utilizing available opportunities for collaboration with institutions, the Institute has benefited from its increased visibility at various forums where further opportunities for consolidating existing partnerships, as well as exploring new coalitions, exist. The network of partners of the Institute is crucial for collaboration and the conduct of joint activities in the Africa region.

40. Further, through extensive publicity on events in which the Institute has participated, its chances of widening its contacts with prospective partners have improved. It is hoped that through such improvements, the Institute will succeed in securing the additional technical assistance it needs to meet its obligations.

41. In this regard, and consistent with the relevant resolutions of its Governing Board, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Institute has the mandate and obligation to undertake programmes with relevant partners, and in cooperation with UNODC, to respond to the needs of African countries in crime prevention and criminal justice. For example, in operative paragraph 5 of its resolution 2007/24, the Economic and Social Council requested "the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources and in cooperation with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to assist African States, upon request, in their efforts to apply the Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa". Similarly, in operative paragraph 4 it requested "the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in cooperation with relevant partners, to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of penal reform". Along the same lines is General Assembly resolution 63/196, specifically its operative paragraphs 5 and 8. Thus, the Institute is a focal point for all professional efforts aimed at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of governments, academics and institutions, as well as scientific professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice.

42. The Institute has a consolidated partnership with the Transnational Law Institute of the Washington and Lee University School of Law. Through this collaboration, the latter sent an expert as a resource person to the last Institute course for correctional officers and law enforcement agents in East Africa, held from 4 to 18 May 2009. The course participants benefited significantly from the experts' insights and thoughts on both the African Union and United Nations instruments relevant to the implementation of the Lilongwe Declaration.

43. The expertise provided during the course was based on the experience of the Washington and Lee School of Law in Liberia and was aimed at addressing challenges such as overcrowding, inappropriate infrastructure and long pretrial periods. This knowledge added value to the substance of the course and contributed significantly to its success. Equally important were the assurances of the Washington and Lee School of Law that this fruitful partnership with the Institute

would be consolidated and institutionalized. This is scheduled to be done through specific initiatives such as staff and student exchanges and through the enhancement of the sharing of experiences through videoconferencing and other distance-learning techniques in an effort to impart skills needed to strengthen criminal justice systems in the context of transnational law.

44. Anticipated academic benefits derived from this collaboration with the Institute also include the acquisition by Washington and Lee students of real-life experience on access to justice and penal reform in developing countries. This can be achieved through interactions with students at law schools in Africa, such as the Makerere University School of Law in the context of practicums, similar to what Washington and Lee University has been doing in Liberia with a great deal of success.

(b) Internships

45. There is a growing partnership between the Institute and a number of universities, including Uganda Christian University, Makerere University and Islamic University In Uganda, through which several students have gained postings for internships at the Institute in their areas of specialization.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

46. The Institute maintains and benefits from its close collaboration with UNODC, agencies in various countries that promote crime prevention and relevant departments of subregional or regional entities such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community. The crucial role of these partnerships and the legitimacy of cooperation have been confirmed by the resolutions of several international forums, including the General Assembly, the Governing Board of the Institute and the African Union, and the Institute continues to explore opportunities for cooperation with other organizations.

47. As part of its efforts to mobilize sufficient capacity to meet the increasing crime prevention needs of its member States, the Institute has established contacts with professional organizations in countries that are promoting not only conventional crime prevention programmes, but related activities such as education; research; dissemination of information; sports, drama and art; advertising; community development; knowledge-based programmes such as those for adult literacy; and gender-based programmes such as those on reproductive health and human rights. The Institute continues to maintain close links with private sector entities, hospitality organizations, the media and the public sector, focusing on the construction/engineering and immigration departments to tap the existing potential to detect the commission of crime and take pre-emptive measures.

48. The Institute was represented at the following national, regional and international meetings:

(a) Tenth session of its Governing Board, Khartoum, 19 and 20 May 2008;

(b) Sixty-third session of the General Assembly, New York, from 20 September 2008;

(c) Economic Commission for Africa-UNODC workshop on crime statistics, Addis Ababa, 9 to 12 December 2008;

(d) Conference on crime victim survey results in Rwanda, Kigali, 18 December 2008;

(e) Course for prosecution authorities in Saudi Arabia, organized and hosted by Naif Arab University of Security Studies, Riyadh, 9 to 14 January 2009;

(f) Regional experts meeting on promoting the rule of law and human security in East Africa, organized by UNODC in conjunction with the Government of Kenya, Nairobi, 2 to 4 February 2009;

(g) Routine meetings for consultations and enhancement of collaboration with the relevant departments of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, 9 to 12 February 2009;

(h) Fourth extraordinary meeting of the Governing Board, Nairobi, 2 March 2009;

(i) Workshop on promoting community safety through corrections, Abuja, 31 March to 3 April 2009;

(j) Eighteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna, 16 to 24 April 2009.

V. Funding and support

49. The total income of the Institute for the period from January to December 2008 was $593,866.12, a significant increase over the $344,421.59 received in 2007. This increase is attributed to the increased collections from member States in 2008 ($189,249) over those in 2007 ($45,335.89). The sources of the funds were as follows:

(a) Assessed contributions from member States, $189,249 (32 per cent);

(b) The 2008 portion of the United Nations grant, $257,700 (43 per cent);

(c) Other income received from rental of the premises and facilities of the Institute, as well as interest on deposits, $146,917.12 (25 per cent).

50. For the period from January to May 2009, the total resources of the Institute were valued at $394,382 comprising the following:

(a) The 2009 portion of the United Nations grant for the biennium 2008-2009, $115,100, to pay part of the salaries of staff members in the Professional category;

(b) Assessed contributions from member States, $204,224;

(c) Other income from the rental of the Institute's premises, $75,058.

A. Assessed financial contributions from member States

51. During the reporting period, the Institute was able to collect $393,473.01 from the following member States: Burkina Faso ($9,985.04); the Gambia ($5,135); Kenya ($3,603); the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ($30,072); Malawi ($77,477); Mozambique ($8,600.42); Nigeria ($143,549); the Sudan ($105,250.55); and the United Republic of Tanzania ($9,801).

52. Of the total amount of $5,169,466 expected to be received by the Institute for the period 1989-2009, only $2,236,360 had been received as at 31 May 2009, leaving an outstanding balance of $2,933,106.

53. The issue of arrears of assessed contributions was discussed extensively by the members of the Governing Board at its fourth extraordinary meeting. The Board resolved to enhance the collection of arrears and agreed on a regional initiative spearheaded by designated member States to oversee the mobilization drive in each region, as follows: Kenya was assigned to mobilize the East African countries; the Sudan the North African countries; Nigeria the West African countries; Cameroon the Central African countries; and Malawi the Southern African countries. Pursuant to that resolution, some countries, such as Malawi and the Sudan, have followed up on their promises at the session with payments to clear all their outstanding dues. Some other countries, such as Cameroon, the Gambia and Kenya, have promised to clear their outstanding balances as soon as the processes to that end, which have commenced in their countries, are concluded. Nigeria had earlier paid all its outstanding obligations up to 2008, following the tenth session of the Board.

B. United Nations grant

54. Since the biennium 1992-1993, the Institute has received a grant from the United Nations, which for the biennium 2008-2009, stands at $372,800. However, expenditure incurred in the biennium 2006-2007 revealed that $446,913.97 was needed to cover the salaries of the core Professional posts of the Director, Deputy Director, Research Adviser, Information/Documentation Adviser and Administration/Finance Officer. As can be seen, the grant provided for only part of the salaries of the core staff, equivalent to about 19 months of the required salary payments, while the additional requirements were met from the assessed contributions of member States.

55. In the 2008 report, the Institute reported on the decision of the Board to increase the salaries by 75 per cent in order to bring them to almost half of those of United Nations staff. The total amount needed to pay the salaries of the staff members in the Professional category for the biennium increased to $697,900 (and it has been maintained at the same level even during the biennium 2008-2009). This creates a deficit of $325,100 (current grant value, $372,800, minus total cost of salaries, $697,900).

56. At its tenth session the Governing Board requested the Third Committee to consider recommending an increase in the value of the grant effective from the biennium 2010-2011 to reflect the total salary requirement of $697,900 to cover the salaries of core Professional staff.

C. Other income

57. As anticipated in the previous report (A/63/87, para. 53), the revenue from other income doubled, from $67,405.45 in 2007 to $146,917.12 in 2008. The revenue received was as follows: $131,046.60 from leased premises and $15,870.52 from rented premises.

VI. Future of the Institute

58. In responding to the unprecedented challenges posed by emerging crime trends, the Institute is trying to design innovative and tailored measures and to utilize initiatives available in operational networks. The effort to devise measures to address the crime problem in Africa will be centred on including as many partners in the network as possible. Considering the high-profile nature of crime in African countries, where the capacity to detect and control such crimes is severely limited, it is necessary for the Institute to assert its technical suitability in the provision of visible crime prevention services, through research, capacity-building, information-sharing and consultative missions. The Institute's schedule of activities will increasingly encompass measures ranging from awareness-raising campaigns to customized interventions to sensitize African countries to the danger that crime poses for their stability and prosperity and the need to incorporate, within their development plans, safeguard mechanisms to detect and prosecute crime.

59. However, the major challenge in this respect will be the lack of sufficient financial support, meaning that the relevance of the Institute is liable to the threat of being incapable of meeting the needs of its member States in crime prevention, with a particular focus on strategies for (a) achieving meaningful and sustainable levels of support and (b) improving its visibility by customizing interventions to its member States' needs in crime prevention. The visibility of the Institute also may affect the sources of its support and the strengthening of its own capacity to offer technical support for promoting the rule of law and good governance. While these measures seem to be long-term in nature, it is important that the Institute start on the medium-term arrangements. These will include the maximization of available capacity by creating useful coalitions with regional and local institutions; the use of local resources through practical initiatives such as cost-sharing; and the participation of communities in the process of policy and legislation reforms to strengthen community safety.

60. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/196, the Board, at its fourth extraordinary session, reiterated its appeal to the Institute to strengthen its collaboration with professional bodies and other organizations active in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for the implementation of activities. The Board commended the increased partnership between the Institute and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network. With specific reference to UNODC, the Board expressed satisfaction at the growing levels of collaboration and support given to implement programmes designed and undertaken in cooperation with the Institute. The Board called on the General Assembly to consider reviewing the amount allocated to the Institute through the United Nations grant, which pays for the salaries of the Institute's core staff in the Professional category.

61. In consideration of the precarious financial situation of the Institute, the Board has indicated its willingness to intensify its appeal to potential members to join the Institute. The Board expressed its willingness to assist in convening a conference of African ministers to discuss measures for Improving the flow of resources to the Institute. Such measures would include lobbying for support from international agencies in the countries of origin of the ministers and advocating for increased support from the General Assembly. The Board also expressed the intention to appeal to member States to consider reviewing their own levels of financial contributions to the Institute. In this respect, the Board has appointed a special working committee of its members, tasked specifically with mobilizing support from the authorities in their respective subregions, including the fulfilment of their financial obligations, such as the outstanding arrears due to the Institute.

VII. Conclusion

62. The African continent experiences unique vulnerabilities imposed on it by a wide range of factors. Most of these factors are facilitating the vicious cycle of lawlessness and underdevelopment and, in some instances, even complicating the process of remedial intervention. The impact of crime is continuously being reflected in the unsatisfactory nature of social services provided, in the missed targets of projected national aspirations and goals and in a multiplicity of weaknesses identified in the systems of governance and rule of law. This situation compromises the efforts aimed at sustainable socio-economic development. Given the ever-increasing sophistication of the operations of transnational organized crime, the Africa region is liable to suffer shortfalls in its planned development.

63. An effective crime prevention agenda in Africa requires a pragmatic threat assessment of the existing challenges in order to design a critical evidence-based plan of action and a well-considered programme of activities to address specific needs. This will involve a careful investment in workable measures focused on realistic perspectives for intervention to prosecute crime. Africa's needs for skills and knowledge remain paramount in the crime prevention strategies that will strengthen national capacities to protect populations. Through action-oriented research and empirical, innovative frameworks based on the realities of African countries, the basis for streamlining measures for the prevention of crime will be established. Consequently, the management of public affairs, particularly with reference to crime prevention and criminal justice administration, will become more professional, by utilizing the results of the empirical and policy-oriented research done by the Institute in conjunction with partner agencies and organizations. All attempts at crime prevention should reflect the concerted effort, incorporating all the relevant contributions from all sections of society. On the basis of General Assembly resolution 63/196, specifically its operative paragraphs 5 and 8, there is sufficient reason to consider the Institute a focal point for all professional efforts aiming at promoting the active cooperation and collaboration of governments, academics, institutions and scientific and professional organizations and experts in crime prevention and criminal justice.